



Arizona Department of Public Safety

For Immediate Release

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Arizona Department of Public Safety officers seize more than a half million in U.S. currency during February

Several traffic stops by Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers along with efforts by DPS criminal investigators resulted in the seizure of \$516,287 in drug money during February 2008. All of the money seized was U.S. currency.

The largest money seizure by DPS during a single traffic stop occurred on February 23 when a DPS officer made a traffic stop on Interstate 10 eastbound near the Arizona/California border and found \$319,065 in a suitcase in the trunk of the vehicle.

“We’re seeing larger and larger amounts of drug cash coming through Arizona in the last couple of months. Drug traffickers are going to great lengths to get their drug money through the state using both commercial vehicles, recreational vehicles and even rent-a-cars. No matter what they do, our officers are adept at getting these drug cash operations off the road,” said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona’s highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona’s largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona’s 15 counties.

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